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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

October 13, 2008

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:07 AM.

Board Members Present: Keith Harrison, Larry Griffin, Bus Spaniola, Charles Seeley, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas Tom Truscott, Ralph Sims, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, and Louise Stilwill.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, and Louise Stilwill.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Introduction of Guest: Rose Moye was introduced by Board Member Charles Seeley. Rose is a retired state employee having worked in the Department of Community Health. She lives in Laingsburg on 130 acres and is a master gardener. She was recommended as a Board member by Paul Tarr.

A motion was made and seconded to elect Rose Moye as a Board member; motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the September 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

President Spaniola reported on the Jeff Haas Quintet Jazz program that was underwritten and hosted by the Friends and Lansing Community College's radio station WLNZ. The program was excellent. The total cost of the program was \$4,700. Special thanks was expressed to all sponsors of the program. President Spaniola indicated that he was uncertain as to how the Friends fared in terms of making money on the program, as he had not yet seen the final figures for the tickets sold. The Friends needed to have at least 84 tickets sold in order to break even on its investment. He did make special note of all the assistance that Chris Dancisak provided in helping to secure a lower cost to the Friends in terms of the Department of Management and Budget's (DMB) charge to use of the Museum

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charge to use of the Museum facilities. It appears that after all the accounting is done, the Friends will be able to realize a \$405 savings from \$500 DNB facility charge.

Paul Tarr stated that he had taken several great photographs of the evening's program and that these could be made available to the radio station for its website. A brief discussion took place regarding future music program fundraisers including possibly teaming up with Michigan State University's School of Music, small groups from the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Junior High School music groups. Another suggestion for a fundraiser was working with the Friends of the Detroit Library to put on a jazz program in the city of Detroit.

President Spaniola read a letter to the Board from the Docent Guild and Associates of the Michigan Historical Center. The letter was thanking the Friends for its \$1,000 donation to help sponsor the Michigan Docent Symposium. The money will be used to help defray the cost of the speakers that will be making presentations at the symposium.

President Spaniola indicated that he had gone to a meeting in Flint to talk with the Sons of Italy to help promote the Wreak on the Wabash book signing. The event is October 19, 2008. He also reminded the Board of the dates for the Book Signing event at Barnes and Noble (November 1 – 2, 2008).

Treasurer Report

There was no Treasurer report. In addition, since there had not been any follow up on motions from the previous two meetings, all the motions dealing with the Treasurer from the previous two previous meetings remain in effect and need to be addressed.

August Meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to set up a separate benevolence fund account in the Friends' Treasury that would be a totally separate account containing monies solely for the purpose of expenditures associated with Friends' members (e.g., flowers associated with a Friends member's funeral). This separate account would be funded solely by donations and any and all donations to this account would not be tax deductible; motion passed.

September Meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to table the August Treasurer's report until the October meeting, motion passed.

It also was moved and seconded that the Treasurer be directed to prepare a budget for the current fiscal year and provide this to the Executive Committee before the October meeting, motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

Two bills (\$404.01 and \$317.56) from the Department of Management and Budget were presented for approval to pay. Both are associated with the Friends' sponsored Jeff Haas Quintet Jazz program.

A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of the two DMB bills (\$404.01 and \$317.56); motion passed.

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Museum Report New

Chris Dancisak talked about the upcoming Roadside Attraction Exhibit, which opens January 10, 2009. The "Grand Opening" will take place on January 14, 2009. As Chris has indicated in previous meetings, the initial Roadside Attraction exhibit will be based on in-house collections. The later exhibit items will be based on the collection of outside artifacts. He also reported that everything still is on hold until after the elections in terms of knowing anything more about the budget and the general operation of the Museum. Finally, he referenced a book being done by Martha Bloomfield and Steve Ostrander that will look at the historical "movers and shakers" of Michigan (with emphasis on ethnic groups).

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* It was reported that Tom Wiener will be the speaker for the November Veterans Day program (November 9th). Arrangements still have to be made to get him from Rogers City down to the Lansing. Once here, the speaker will be staying at the Radisson. Chris Dancisak indicated that he would be getting the information and notice out to the Veterans' organizations. It was indicated that if we added to the list of the sponsors of this event, the Association of the United States Army, the Friends would get a \$100.00. A choir also is coming to be a part of the program. There is still a need for a keyboard. Refreshments are planned for about 125 people. We also have a VFW honor guard coming. Ken Beachler will be there. Keith Harrison indicated that we need to have either the Friends' new newsletter or copies of the old newsletter (approximately 150 copies) available for the event. The committee expressed concern about the inability to publicize this and other Friends' events with the Michigan press. It was suggested that the Friends should start to consider taking out (buy) advertisements. Specifically, it was suggested that committee should see how much it would cost to take out an ad with the *City Pulse*.

A motion was made and seconded to set aside up to \$250 for an advertisement for the November 9th program; motion passed.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Committee Chair Keith Harrison indicated that the next events where the Friends' display will be at are presented below.

October 19, 2008 – Book Signing with Lauri Perkins, author of *Wreck on the Wabash* Program.

State Library/Museum, Lansing 2 PM

The event is free to the public

Board Display staffing: Bus Spaniola

November 1 and 2, 2008 - Barnes and Nobel Book Signing Fund Raiser

One of the two Barnes and Nobel Book Stores in Lansing

Dave Dempsey will be signing his new book on Michigan.

Board Display staffing: Several Board members

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November 7, 8, 2008 - Oral History for Michigan: A Conference
Rogers City, Michigan (Grambau Education Center 251 West Huron Avenue)
Saturday – Times are unknown at this time
Sunday – Times are unknown at this time
All Day Event (both days)
No cost to the Friends to set up display
Contact: Friends' Board Member Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
<gwiskemann@arq.net>
Board Display staffing: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

November 9th Veterans Program
State Library/Museum, Lansing 2 PM
The event is free to the public
Board Display staffing: Charles Seeley and Other Board Members.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott).* Committee Chair Charles Seeley was provided to two names for Board member consideration. The first was Ms. Kerry Chartkoff who was recommended by Keith Harrison and Bus Spaniola. The second was Mr. John Irwin who was recommended by Mrs. Jean Shawver.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)* No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair).* No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman Co-chairs).*
The newsletter is close to being done. It is hoped that they will be out before the Veterans Day program. It was emphasized that the newsletter also should focus on the travel opportunities being made available by the Friends through Collette Travel.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair).*

The items for this committee were addressed under the President's Report.

Old Business

A. *License Plates.* Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status.* There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

C. *Conservation of Historical Photographs.* No report.

D. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

A. *New Committee.* President Spaniola appointed a new committee, *Calendar*

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Committee, to develop a 2010 Friends' Calendar of events. John Truscott was appointed chair of and Rose Moye was appointed as a member to the committee.

B. Mr. Harrison recommended that prior to the next meeting, the Executive Committee should look into the status of members who have not been attending any of the Board meetings and who have not been in communication with the Board, since this was impacting on the Board's ability to achieve quorums at its meetings.

C. Mr. Harrison informed the Board of the upcoming free seminar being put on by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The seminar, which will take place on Tuesday night, October 21st at 7 PM in Sunfield, Michigan, will feature Mr. Mark Hoffman, Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries and member of the SUVCW. Mr. Hoffman will be discussing his new book, *My Brave Mechanics, The Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War*.

D. Mr. Tarr indicated that a book that Board might want to consider doing a fundraiser/book-signing in the future might be Dr. William Decker's new book on mental health hospitals in Michigan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, November 10, 2008, in Lansing.